UNITED NATIONS

CEDAW

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.
GENERAL

CEDAW/C/SR.282
21 February 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Fourteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 282nd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 2 February 1995, at 8 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. CORTI

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WAYS AND MEANS OF EXPEDITING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE (continued)

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (continued)

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95-80265 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 8.15 p.m.

WAYS AND MEANS OF EXPEDITING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE (continued)

Report of Working Group I (CEDAW/C/1995/WG.I/WP.2/Add.1 and Add.2)

Decision 1

1. Ms. BUSTELO GARCIA DEL REAL said that paragraph 3 should refer, in particular, to article 10 (h).

2. Ms. GARCIA-PRINCE said that the decision should contain a new paragraph 4 indicating that the Committee wished to have the draft Platform for Action submitted to it as soon as possible.

3. Decision 1, as orally amended, was adopted.

General recommendation 22 (fourteenth session)

4. General recommendation 22 was adopted.

Decision contained in document CEDAW/C/1995/WG.I/WP.2/Add.2

5. Ms. SINEGIORGIS proposed that a new paragraph be inserted in the draft decision contained in document CEDAW/C/1995/WG.I/WP.2/Add.2. The text would result as follows: "Bearing in mind that article 20.2 of the Convention should be applied in such a way that States parties would be encouraged to present their reports on schedule," and would be the last preambular paragraph.

6. She recalled that two other amendments had been proposed at the previous meeting, namely, that the phrase "and keeping in mind the link with the Division for the Advancement of Women" should be added at the end of paragraph 2, and that the final clause of paragraph 3 should read "and therefore requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the link between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee be maintained, the continued implementation of article 21.2 of the Convention being one such link;".

7. The decision contained in document CEDAW/C/1995/WG.I/WP.2/Add.2, as orally amended, was adopted.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (continued)

Report of Working Group II (CEDAW/C/1995/WG.II/WP.2 and Add.1)

8. Ms. AOUIJ introduced the report, noting that the main priority was the Committee's contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

9. The CHAIRPERSON invited the Committee to consider the report section by section.

Section A

10. Mr. MATHIASON (Deputy Director, Division for the Advancement of Women), replying to an inquiry from the Chairperson as to when the draft document to be prepared at the recently authorized meeting at Madrid should be submitted to the Secretariat in New York, said it should be sent as soon as the final corrections had been made. Four months was normally needed to edit and translate a long document, in order to ensure that it could be issued in good time. Documents could be submitted in any language, but each distinct section should be in only one language.

11. The CHAIRPERSON, replying to concern expressed by Ms. Bustelo Garcia del Real about the equal authenticity of texts in different languages, said she appreciated her concern, but that all texts submitted had to be processed by the translation services, and were rendered equally authentic.

12. Section A was adopted.

Section B

13. Ms. CARTWRIGHT asked the Committee to accept the suggestions concerning the elements of an optional protocol and the inquiry procedure, which were outlined in Section B, without asking for detailed information. Working Group II had examined article by article the text prepared by the expert group meeting in Maastricht and was familiar with its concepts and implications. That had taken a great amount of time and could not be repeated. She noted that the drafting of the optional protocol would be carried out within the United Nations system, and that the results could differ from what the Committee had requested.

14. Ms. HARTONO said there had not been consensus in the Working Group as to the merits and objectivity of an optional protocol and that more time was needed to study the draft text. She had objections to many of the proposed elements.

15. Ms. SINEGIORGIS, supported by Ms. SCHÖPP-SCHILLING, Ms. ESTRADA-CASTILLO, and Ms. DE DIOS, said that the elements outlined in Section B of the report were the result of many hours of work and she would prefer not to delete large sections of it. The Committee was merely submitting suggestions to the Commission on the Status of Women and should provide it with as much information as possible.

16. Ms. LIN proposed that, in order to reflect the true picture of the discussions in the working group regarding the optional protocol, and with a view to achieving consensus, the words "the Committee submits" in the last sentence of paragraph 6 should be replaced with the words "many members of the Committee suggest".

17. Ms. HARTONO said that while she had no basic quarrel with paragraphs 6, 9, 10, 11, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31, the remaining paragraphs were totally unacceptable and she therefore could not accept that amendment. She requested that her views be placed on record.

18. Ms. SINEGIORGIS recalling that the Committee must endeavour to reach its decisions by consensus, proposed that the words "the Committee submits" in the last sentence of paragraph 6 should be replaced by the words "the overwhelming majority of the members of the Committee submit ...".

19. Section B, as orally amended, was adopted.

Section C

20. Ms. AOUIJ pointed out that the document referred to in Section C would be the basis for a workshop at the forthcoming Fourth World Conference on Women. The text of the document was contained in the annex and addendum to the Working Group's report (CEDAW/C/1995/WG.II/WP.2, Annex, and WP.2/Add.1).

21. The CHAIRPERSON invited the Committee to consider the text paragraph by paragraph.

22. The preamble was adopted.

Paragraphs 1 to 4

23. Paragraphs 1 to 4 were adopted.

Paragraph 5

24. Ms. KHAN proposed that the word "non-traditional" should be inserted in the second line before the word "scientific", and that the words "such as research, teaching, engineering and as technicians" in the seventh and eighth lines should be deleted.

25. Paragraph 5, as orally amended, was adopted.

The meeting rose at 11.05 p.m.

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Fourteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 283rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 3 February 1995, at 11 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. CORTI

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CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (continued)

WAYS AND MEANS OF EXPEDITING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (continued)

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95-80271 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 11.20 a.m.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (continued) (CEDAW/C/1995/7; CEDAW/C/1995/WG.II/WP.2 and Add.1)

1. The CHAIRPERSON said that the Committee had requested that a day be devoted to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women at the Fourth World Conference on Women, during which various non-governmental organizations and agencies would hold events or workshops relating to the Convention. She proposed that the Committee should hold a workshop in conjunction with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on ways and means of publicizing and implementing the Convention, in the context of both the NGO Forum and intergovernmental meetings. The Committee would ask the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to include a joint workshop on the Convention in its programme for the Conference.

2. It was so decided.

3. Ms. AOUIJ proposed that a new paragraph should be inserted after paragraph 32 of document CEDAW/C/1995/WG.II/WP.2, requesting that the UNESCO study on rape as a weapon of war be transmitted to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

4. It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 11.20 a.m. and resumed at 11.35 a.m.

Report of Working Group II (continued) (CEDAW/C/1995/WG.II/WP.2/Add.1)

Section A: UNESCO document on CEDAW

Paragraph 6

5. Ms. SCHOPP-SCHILLING said that the word "non-discriminatory" should be inserted at the beginning of the first sentence. In the eleventh line, the word "changing" should be deleted. The phrase "irrespective of gender" should be added at the end of the last sentence.

6. Paragraph 6, as orally amended was adopted.

Paragraph 7

7. Ms. GARCIA-PRINCE said that the text should be amended to avoid giving the impression that legal literacy, health and reproductive rights were the only foundations of women's autonomy; it had been emphasized repeatedly that employment and income generation were also of primary importance.

8. Paragraph 7, as orally amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 8

9. Paragraph 8 was adopted.

10. The CHAIRPERSON said she took it that the Committee wished to adopt the CEDAW/UNESCO Manifesto contained in the annex to document CEDAW/C/1995/WG.II/WP.2 and in section A of document CEDAW/C/1995/WG.II/WP.2/Add.1, as orally amended, and to transmit the final text of the Manifesto to UNESCO.

11. It was so decided.

12. Ms. AYKOR requested the Secretariat to send the final version of the Manifesto to Committee members so that they could disseminate it in their own countries.

Section B: Contribution of the Committee to the Fourth World Conference on Women

Draft decision

13. Mr. MATHIASON (Deputy Director, Division for the Advancement of Women) said that an additional preambular paragraph should be added to the draft decision after the fifth preambular paragraph, reading as follows: "Recognizing further the Committee's responsibility to develop and foster a relationship with the specialized agencies which share common areas of current concern affecting women". In paragraph 1, the word "full" should be added before "participation".

14. Ms. SINEGIORGIS said that, in the fifth preambular paragraph, the word "minimal" should be deleted. In the fourth line of paragraph 2, the words "one-day" should be deleted and the remainder of the paragraph, after "thematic meeting", should read: "to the extent possible with members of the other treaty bodies and specialized agencies attending the Fourth World Conference on Women".

15. Ms. SHALEV, referring to paragraph 4, said that if the word "Declares" was to be used, the rest of the sentence should read "that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women is an essential mechanism ...".

16. With regard to paragraph 2, she was concerned that the suggestion by Ms. Sinegiorgis might create confusion, in the light of the contents of section 7 of the report of Working Group I (CEDAW/C/1995/WG.I/WP.2). She proposed that the paragraph should be amended to read as follows:

> "Requests further the Secretariat to be the focal point for the organization of a thematic meeting, to the extent possible with members of the other treaty bodies and specialized agencies attending the Fourth World Conference on Women, and to implement the technical and administrative arrangements set forth in document CEDAW/C/1995/WG.I/WP.2;".

17. Ms. BERNARD said that she shared Ms. Shalev's concern and supported the proposed amendment.

18. The draft decision contained in Section B, as orally amended, was adopted.

19. Mr. MATHIASON (Deputy Director, Division for the Advancement of Women) suggested that, in the light of the discussion at the previous meeting, the Committee might wish to replace the final paragraph of section B with the following:

> "The committee decided to adopt its contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women and authorized the Chairperson of the Committee, in consultation with members of the Committee, to prepare the final text, such consultation to take place, inter alia, at the informal meeting of the Committee in Madrid."

20. Section B, as orally amended, was adopted.

Section C: General recommendations on articles 7 and 8; general recommendation on article 2

21. Section C was adopted.

Section D: Follow-up with regard to the International Conference on Population and Development

Draft recommendation

22. Ms. SHALEV, after reading out minor drafting changes to the Committee's recommendation on the follow-up to the Cairo Conference, said that, since its drafting, a letter had been received from the Executive Director of the Global Programme on AIDS of the World Health Organization, transmitting to the Committee a document which detailed, from the perspective of women's rights, issues relating to human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) under the relevant articles of the Convention. She proposed that the recommendation should include an additional paragraph suggesting that the aforesaid document be brought to the attention of the meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, should such a meeting be convened as requested.

23. The CHAIRPERSON suggested that the matter should be dealt with when the agenda for that meeting was prepared.

24. Ms. SINEGIORGIS, referring to the first operative paragraph of the draft recommendation, said that the phrase "monitor the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action" might be inappropriate. She also failed to grasp the meaning of the final clause of the third paragraph, which read "bearing in mind the administrative, budgetary and programme implications of such possibility".

25. Following consultations with Ms. Shalev, she proposed the following amendments to the draft recommendation. First, a new preambular paragraph

should be inserted between the fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs, reading as follows:

> "Noting also information received by the Committee at its fourteenth session from the World Health Organization on HIV/AIDS and women's human rights in the context of the Convention;".

Second, in the first operative paragraph, the word "monitor" should be amended to "follow", and after "Programme of Action" the remainder of the paragraph should read "with respect to women's human rights;". Third, the second operative paragraph should be amended to read as follows:

> "Decides further that the Committee shall develop a jurisprudence of standards of international law in the field of women's reproductive health;".

Lastly, in the third operative paragraph, the words "United Nations Development Fund" should be replaced by "United Nations Population Fund". After the words "exchange of information among them", the remainder of the paragraph should read: "as well as coordination with relevant organs of the United Nations system, as regards the follow-up to the Cairo Programme of Action with respect to human rights."

26. The draft recommendation contained in section D, as orally amended, was adopted.

27. Section D was adopted.

Section E: The Committee's input to the World Summit for Social Development

28. Section E was adopted.

29. Document CEDAW/C/1995/WG.II/WP.2/Add.1 was adopted.

30. The CHAIRPERSON said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of the report of Working Group II as contained in document CEDAW/C/1995/WG.II/WP.2 and Add.1.

WAYS AND MEANS OF EXPEDITING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (continued)

31. Ms. BERNARD, noting that women's lack of mobility within the Division for the Advancement of Women was a matter of great concern, proposed that the Committee should send a letter to the Secretary-General, urging that he take action to end such discrimination.

32. Ms. JAVATE DE DIOS endorsed the proposal and suggested that the scope of the letter should be broadened to include all agencies of the United Nations system which dealt with issues relating to women.

33. Ms. SCHOPP-SCHILLING said that, while she supported the proposal to send a letter to the Secretary-General concerning the plight of women at the

Professional level in the Division, an issue about which the Committee had definite information, she believed that to broaden the scope of the letter would weaken the Committee's position.

34. Ms. LIN Shangzhen, noting that the Commission on the Status of Women had adopted a resolution on discrimination against women within the United Nations system, said that she supported Ms. Bernard's proposal.

35. Ms. GARCIA-PRINCE said that she, too, supported the proposal. She suggested that a copy of the letter should be sent to the Coordinator of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

36. Ms. ESTRADA CASTILLO, Ms. MUÑOZ-GOMEZ, Ms. OUEDRAOGO, Ms. ABAKA and Ms. AOUIJ expressed their support for the proposal.

37. Ms. JAVATE DE DIOS suggested that the letter should refer to statements made by the Secretary-General in the past concerning his desire to achieve parity for women in the Secretariat.

38. The CHAIRPERSON said that she would draft the letter in accordance with the suggestions made.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

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Fourteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 284th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 3 February 1995, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. CORTI

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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AT ITS FOURTEENTH SESSION

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AT ITS FOURTEENTH SESSION (CEDAW/C/1995/L.1 and Add.1-12)

1. Ms. SCHÖPP-SCHILLING, Rapporteur, introducing the report, said that she took it in good faith that the corrections she had made had, in fact, been incorporated into the final version of the printed text. Since the Committee's workload was far greater than that of other human rights treaty bodies, it was essential that its procedures be as efficient as possible. Accordingly, she proposed that at the beginning of the next session, the Committee should spend some time on the process and procedure of preparing and formulating its concluding comments.

CEDAW/C/1995/L.1 and Add.1-3, 5 and 6

2. Ms. SCHÖPP-SCHILLING said that the amendments and corrections that members had submitted would be incorporated by the Secretariat.

3. Documents CEDAW/C/1995/L.1 and Add.1-3, 5 and 6, as amended, were adopted.

CEDAW/C/1995/L.1/Add.4 and 7-12

4. Documents CEDAW/C/1995/L.1/Add.4 and 7-12 were adopted.

5. The report of the Committee as a whole was adopted.

6. The CHAIRPERSON, thanking everyone who had contributed to the successful completion of the Committee's work and noted that the Committee had succeeded in producing guidelines for the future draft optional protocol.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

7. Ms. MONGELLA (Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women) noted that some of the Committee's decisions would require further processing, and would be reviewed in the light of the results of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. She pledged that the Secretariat would ensure that CEDAW had the necessary resources at its disposal and said that staff would be made available to service CEDAW's meeting in Madrid. Owing to technical difficulties she had not been able to provide Committee members with copies of the draft Platform for Action, but she hoped to be in a position to do so before the Madrid meeting.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

8. After an exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRPERSON declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.